

Rural District Council of Maidstone.



ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH

OF THE

MAIDSTONE RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR

1913

BY

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MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT.

Area and Population.

The following Tables give the area, population of the District, and other figures, as shown by the Census of 1911 and previous Census years:—

No. of Regn. District.	Area in Statute Acres.		Inhabited Houses.				Population.			
	Land and Inland Water.	Inland Water only.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911
51	34,996	214	3,181	3,275	3,378	3,724	15,492	15,907	15,570	16,398

Civil Parishes.	Area in Statute Acres (Land and Inland Water).	Families or Separate Occupiers.		Population.				Institu- tions, Large Establish- ments, Vessels, &c., 1911. (Included in Cols. 4 & 6).	
				1901.	1911.				
		1901.	1911.	Per- sons.	Per- sons.	Males.	Fe- males.	No.	Popu- lation.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
Bearsted	574	163	212	726	883	413	470	—	—
Boughton Monchelsea	2,382	254	278	1,082	1,233	612	621	3	19
East Barming	760	166	200	744	897	441	456	—	—
East Farleigh	1,967	321	342	1,537	1,554	775	779	1	127
Hunton.....	2,075	189	180	821	807	397	410	3	10
Linton	1,961	138	136	912	840	461	379	3	333
Loose.....	1,054	347	369	1,509	1,507	733	774	1	18
Marden	7,749	561	630	2,337	2,614	1,327	1,287	13	26
Nettlestead	1,305	123	137	611	613	318	295	—	—
Otham	955	80	75	335	328	162	166	2	16
Staplehurst	5,897	393	441	1,688	1,802	897	905	—	—
Teston	520	60	61	286	255	121	134	1	17
West Barming.....	332	6	4	30	21	6	15	—	—
West Farleigh	1,107	92	100	424	453	225	228	3	5
Yalding.....	6,358	580	599	2,528	2,591	1,274	1,317	10	23
Totals	34,996	3,473	3,764	15,570	16,398	8,162	8,236	40	594

The **Population** of the Maidstone Rural District, estimated to the middle of 1913, was 16,590, being an increase of 85 on the estimated population of 1912, and of 192 on the census population of 1911.

The number of births registered in the District amounted to 356, including 176 of males and 180 of females. To this number are added four births which took place outside the district of children born of parents with a fixed place of residence in the district, while six births are deducted of children whose parents had a fixed place of residence elsewhere.

The nett number of births was therefore 354 (177 male and 177 female), which gives a **Birth-rate** of 21·3 per 1,000 of population, as compared with 19·7 in 1912 and 21·5 in 1911.

Two hundred and seventy-two deaths were registered in the district, 144 of males and 128 of females. To this number are added the deaths of 12 persons belonging to the district, and who died outside its area, while 66 deaths are deducted of persons dying in the district, and who had a fixed place of residence elsewhere.

The nett number of deaths belonging to the district was 218 (108 male and 110 female), giving a **Death-rate** of 13·1 per 1,000 of population, as compared with a similar rate in 1912 and 12·8 in 1911.

Twenty-one deaths were certified as due to one or other of the following epidemic diseases, viz.:—

Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years).....	13
Diphtheria	—
Measles	3
Whooping Cough	1
Enteric Fever... ..	—
Scarlet Fever	4
Small Pox	—
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	21

The **Death-rate** from these **Epidemic Diseases** was 1·26 per 1,000 of population, as compared with 0·91 in 1912, and 1·04 in 1911.

The **Infant Mortality**, *i.e.*, the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 registered births, was 96 as compared with 108 in 1912 and 113 in 1911.

The Midwives Act, 1902, is administered directly by the Kent County Council.

The Notification of Births Act, 1907, has not been adopted.

No cases of Ophthalmia in the newly-born have come to my notice.

The **Birth-rate** in England and Wales in 1913 was 23·9 per 1,000 of the population, which is 0·1 per thousand above the rate in 1912, but lower than the rate in any other year on record. Compared with the average in the ten years 1903-1912, the birth rate in 1913 showed a decrease of 2·4 per 1,000.

The **Death-rate** in 1913 was 13·7 per 1000, which was 0·4 per 1,000 above the rate in 1912. Compared with the average rate in the ten years 1903-1912, the death-rate in 1913 showed a decrease of 1·2 per 1,000.

The rate of mortality among infants, measured by the proportion of deaths under one year of age to registered births, was equal to 109 per 1,000, which is 14 per 1,000 above the rate in 1912.

The following Table gives a comparison between the rates for this district and those for England and Wales:—

	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Infant Mortality.	Epidemic Death rate.
England and Wales	23·9	13·7	109	1·20
Maidstone Rural	21·3	13·1	96	1·26

There is an improvement in the birth-rate which I hope will be maintained.

The general death-rate and the rate of infant mortality are respectively 0·6 and 13 below the corresponding figures for England and Wales.

The death-rate from the stated epidemic diseases is 0·6 above that for the country generally. This is unsatisfactory especially as it is due to the 13 deaths from Diarrhœa, a complaint which is preventible to a great extent.

A. Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

Under the Infectious Disease (Notification) Acts, 1889 and 1899, the following diseases are compulsorily notifiable in the District, viz., Small-pox, Cholera, Diphtheria, Membranous Croup, Erysipelas, the disease known as Scarlet Fever or Scarletina, and the Fevers known by any of the following names:—Typhus, Typhoid or Enteric, Relapsing, Continued and Puerperal

By a General Order of the Local Government Board, No. 58,962, dated 15th August, 1912, the diseases known as Cerebro-spinal Fever and Acute Poliomyelitis were also made compulsorily notifiable.

By a General Order of the Local Government Board dated 19th December, 1912, the following Regulations, viz., the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1908; the Public Health (Tuberculosis in Hospitals) Regulations, 1911, and the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1911, were revoked and substituted by the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1912. These last-named Regulations came into operation on the 1st February, 1913, and had the effect of making all forms of Tuberculosis compulsorily notifiable on and after that date.

During the year 1913, 133 cases were notified, as against 140 in the previous year, and comprised 20 of Diphtheria, three of Erysipelas, 66 of Scarlet Fever, one of Puerperal Fever, 34 of Phthisis (consumption of the lungs), eight of other forms of Tuberculosis, and one of Infantile Paralysis.

Scarlet Fever rose from 38 non-fatal cases in 1912 to 66 cases, with five deaths in 1913.

In point of time the cases were notified thus:—

January	—	July	3
February	7	August	5
March.....	3	September ...	8
April	4	October... ..	7
May	7	November	11
June	7	December.....	4

Total 66 cases.

Locally the disease was spread over the Rural area :—

Bearsted	1 case.
East Farleigh	8 cases.
Hunton	3 „
Linton	1 case.
Loose	4 cases.
Marden	33 „
Nettlestead	2 „
Otham	1 case.
Staplehurst...	4 cases.
Teston	4 „
Yalding ...	5 „
—	
Total	66 cases.
—	

Age period of cases and deaths :—

1—5 years.	5—15 years.	15—25 years.	25—45 years.	
13	49	2	2	= 66 cases.
1	4	—	—	= 5 deaths.

Fifty-four of the patients were treated in the Council's Isolation Hospital, and all the five deaths occurred there.

It will be seen that there were a large number of cases in Marden, and the following deaths resulted :—

Case.	Sex and Age.	Date of Notification and removal to Hospital.	Date of Death.	Parish.
1	M. 5	... May 5	... May 16	Marden.
2	F. 9	... June 9	... June 13	„
3	F. 10	... „ 20	... „ 24	„
4	F. 4	... Aug. 23	... Aug. 26	„
5	M. 10	... Nov. 4	... Nov. 29	Hunton.

As regards Case No. 1, the boy was staying temporarily in the district, and the death is not included in Table III., having been transferred to the district where he permanently resided.

Many of the cases were of a serious nature when admitted to hospital. Over 7·5 per cent. of the notified cases terminated fatally,

and even excluding the above transferable death, the scarlet fever death-rate was 0·24 per 1,000 of population, or four times higher than the rate for the country generally during the corresponding period.

Diphtheria.—I am glad to report a decided decrease in cases of this disease. There were 44 cases and five deaths in 1912, and only 20 non-fatal cases in 1913, which were notified as follows:—

January	1 case	at the Workhouse.
February	1 „	„ Marden.
March	1 „	„ Marden.
May	1 „	„ Boughton Monchelsea.
June	2 cases	„ Boughton Monchelsea.
July	5 „	1 each at Loose, Boughton, Nettlestead, Linton and the Workhouse.
September	3 „	1 each at Marden, the Workhouse, and East Farleigh.
October.....	1 case	at East Farleigh.
November	5 cases	3 at Yalding and 2 at Marden.

Age period of cases:—

1—5 years.	5—15 years.	15—25 years.	25—45 years.	
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
3	9	6	2	= 20 cases.

All but one patient were treated at the hospital.

Anti-toxin is available for *all* cases and also for use as a preventive in those few cases in which it is desirable to administer it—for these purposes being supplied gratuitously when the patient cannot afford this somewhat expensive remedy.

Swabs were taken and examined bacteriologically at the Kent County Laboratory of suspicious cases.

These present day methods of dealing with the disease coupled with the good hospital treatment now available, have doubtlessly been the chief factors in obtaining such good results.

Enteric Fever.—The district was entirely free from this disease throughout the year—there were three cases (one fatal) in 1912, and none in 1911—an excellent record.

Erysipelas.—Three cases were notified with two deaths, as against six cases (one fatal) in the previous year.

Puerperal Fever.—One case only was notified in July at Staplehurst. The patient was attended by a medical man and a midwife and recovered.

Small-pox.—It is satisfactory to record that no cases of this disease have occurred since July, 1902.

Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis and Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis are now by the General Order of the Local Government Board of August 16th, 1912, compulsorily notifiable, but during the past year no notifications of actual cases have been received.

A case of infantile paralysis was, however, notified to me from Marden in August, and although after investigation the disease appeared to be of the non-infective character, it was notified as a preventive measure and according to the Local Government Board's suggestion.

Tuberculosis in all its forms caused 20 deaths during the year, as compared with 27 in 1912, and 23 in 1911. Of these 20 deaths, 13 were certified as due to Phthisis (consumption of the lungs), as against 18 in the two previous years.

The **Death-rate** from all forms of the disease was 1·20, and the **Phthisis** death-rate 0·78 per 1,000 of population, as compared with rates of 1·64 and 1·09 in the previous year.

The following Table gives a comparison of the rates for this District, and the rates for England and Wales for the five years 1907—1911, beyond which the comparative figures for the country generally are not at present available :—

	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913
TUBERCULOSIS (all forms).							
England & Wales...	1·61	1·58	1·54	1·43	1·46	—	—
Maidstone Rural.							
Death-rate ...	1·69	1·36	1·56	1·17	1·40	1·64	1·20
No. of deaths ...	26	21	24	18	23	27	20
PHTHISIS.							
England & Wales...	1·14	1·12	1·09	1·02	1·08	—	—
Maidstone Rural.							
Death-rates ...	1·62	1·23	1·30	0·72	1·09	1·09	0·78
No. of deaths ...	25	19	20	11	18	18	13

Notice of the 1912 Regulations coming into force was given to each medical practitioner in the area and notification forms as prescribed were issued by your Clerk.

The duties of the Medical Officer of Health are laid down as follows :—

Article XI.—(1) A Medical Officer of Health, on receipt of a notification which has been erroneously addressed to him by a Medical Practitioner, shall forthwith transmit the notification to the Medical Officer of Health to whom the notification ought, in pursuance of these Regulations, to have been addressed, and shall at the same time inform the Medical Practitioner that he has done so, and shall give to him the name and address of the Medical Officer of Health to whom the notification has been sent.

(2) Every Medical Officer of Health shall cause to be entered in a Register to be kept by him for that purpose the full particulars contained in every notification received by him under these Regulations and relating to a person whose place of residence or place of destination is situate within the district for which he is medical officer of health. The said Register shall be kept in the custody of the Medical Officer of Health and shall not be open to inspection by any person other than a person specially authorised by resolution of the Local Authority, the Medical Officer of Health for the Administrative County within which the district is situate, a School Medical Inspector for any area within which the district is situate, or an Officer of any Government Department authorized in that respect by that Department.

Every notification and every document relating to a person notified under these Regulations shall be regarded by the Medical Officer of Health, and by every person who has access thereto, as confidential.

(3) The Medical Officer of Health shall, as soon as practicable after the end of each week, send to the Medical Officer of Health for the Administrative County within which the district is situate a statement of every notification received by him during the week in pursuance of these Regulations and relating to a person whose place of residence is situate within the district for which he is Medical Officer of Health. The statement shall show on which Form the notification was made and shall contain the information in regard to each person which was given in the notification.

(4) Any expenses incurred by a Medical Officer of Health in carrying out the duties imposed upon him by this Article shall be defrayed by the Local Authority of the district for which he is Medical Officer of Health.

Article XII.—Upon the receipt of a notification under these Regulations the Medical Officer of Health, or an Officer of the Local Authority acting under the instructions of the Medical Officer of Health, shall make such inquiries and take such steps as are necessary or desirable for investigating the source of infection, for

preventing the spread of infection, and for removing conditions favourable to infection :

Provided that nothing in this Article shall be deemed to authorize a Medical Officer of Health or other Officer to take any of the steps herein mentioned at any Institution other than one belonging to the Local Authority, except with the consent of the Managers of that Institution.

Notifications under the older Regulations continued through the month of January, 1913, two notifications of Phthisis being received under the "Tuberculosis" Regulations, 1911.

During the whole year 44 notifications were received relating to 42 persons of whom 34 were suffering from Pulmonary and eight from other forms of Tuberculosis. Of these 34 Pulmonary cases five died during the year, and of the eight other forms two died.

Of the total 20 deaths, 10 were of males and 10 of females, and the fatal age-periods were as follows :—

Under 1 year.	1—2 years.	5—15 years.	15—25 years.	25—45 years.	45—65 years.	
1	2	3	5	7	2	= 20 deaths.

B. Non-Notifiable Acute Infectious Diseases.

Measles caused three deaths—one in April and one in May at Yalding, and one in July at East Farleigh—the patients being children aged two years, three years and 16 months respectively.

Whooping-Cough.—Only one death resulted, that of an infant seven months of age at Yalding, in July.

Diarrhœa and Enteritis (under two years).—Thirteen deaths are scheduled under this heading, viz.:—One in August at Marden; five in September (four at Yalding and one at the Union Workhouse); five in October (two at Marden, and one each at Nettlestead, Yalding and Hunton); one in November at Staplehurst; and one in December at Yalding.

This considerable number of infant deaths in a comparatively cool summer and autumn point to contamination of infant food (and

of course notably milk), probably due to several causes, of which the following are common :—

- (1) In a majority of cottages the food store is unsatisfactory.
- (2) The vessels into which the milk is delivered are not clean enough for the reception of a liquid so readily acted on by the lowest form of vegetable life. Jugs, &c., require to be treated with *boiling* water.
- (3) Infant's bottles are not kept sufficiently clean. It is a common practice in fine weather for women to take babies into the hop-gardens while they are at work, tying or picking, and this does not give them much chance of properly attending to these matters.
- (4) The amount of condensed milk used in such areas is very considerable, and more than generally imagined, and this is often kept longer than it should be, and from its sweetness is very attractive for flies of all kinds and soon becomes contaminated.

Influenza caused three deaths—two in March (one at Marden and one at Boughton Monchelsea); and one in April at Loose—all the patients were adults.

C. Other Diseases.

Cancer.—Reference to Table 3 will show that 20 deaths were due to this disease, equal to a rate of 1·20 per 1,000 of population, as compared with 0·90 in 1912.

The following Table shows the number of deaths and death-rates for this district for the years 1907-1913, with the comparative rates for England and Wales up to 1911, beyond which year the latter are not at present available :—

	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.
England and Wales ...	0·91	0·92	0·96	0·97	0·99	—	—
Death-rate	0·97	0·78	0·45	0·98	0·90	0·90	1·20
No. of Deaths	15	12	7	15	15	15	20

Hospital Accommodation and Administration.

Seventy-three cases of infectious disease were treated in the Isolation Hospital at Loose, and were admitted as follows :—

	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Total.
January	1	—	1
February	—	2	2
March	1	1	2
April	—	3	3
May	1	4	5
June	2	7	9
July	5	3	8
August	—	5	5
September	3	8	11
October	1	6	7
November	5	11	16
December	—	4	4
Totals	19	54	73

Five deaths occurred at the Hospital from Scarlet Fever, to which I have already referred.

Chemical and Bacteriological Aids to Diagnosis.

Seventy-six specimens were examined at the County Laboratory, Maidstone, with the following results :—

	Positive.	Negative .	Totals.
Diphtheria	27	37	64
Enteric Fever	—	2	2
Phthisis	4	4	8
Ringworm	2	—	2
	33	43	76

Adoptive Acts.—There are none of the Adoptive Acts yet in force in the district.

Water Supply.—I examined 34 samples of water during the year—17 from Marden, seven from Staplehurst, five from East Farleigh, two from Loose, and one from each of the parishes of Boughton Monchelsea, West Farleigh and Otham.

Of these, five were satisfactory, and 29 I did not consider fit for drinking purposes.

The Mid Kent Water Company supply a large area in this and several adjoining districts, and the following is the copy of a chemical analysis of the water taken in December, 1913, by Mr. Cecil H. Cribb, and forwarded to me by the Secretary of the Company, Mr. L. Holman :—

Halling Water from Larkfield.

	Parts per 100,000
Ammonia, Free	·0004
„ Albuminoid	·0004
Oxygen absorbed } in 15 minutes.....	·0016
at 27° C } in 4 hours	·0064
Total Solid Residue	23·00
Chlorine	1·70
Nitrogen, as Nitrates	trace.
Nitrogen, as Nitrites ..	none.
Temporary Hardness }	7·70
Permanent Hardness }	3·64
Total Hardness }	11·34

REMARKS :—“ All the results were in every way satisfactory, the sample being for all practical purposes free from organic matter.”

Drainage and Sewerage.

The drainage system at Marden, and the condition of Bearsted, Loose and Staplehurst referred to in my Annual Report last year were inspected in September last by an Inspector of the Local Government Board.

Regulations and Bye-Laws.

The following are in force :—

Bye-Laws as to Hop-Pickers' accommodation, adopted 26th July, 1888.

Regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, adopted 28th March, 1907.

Amended Regulations as to New Drainage under the Public Health Act, 1875, Sections 21 and 23, which came into force on the 24th August, 1911.

Bye-Laws with respect to Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar structures used for human habitation, adopted 18th April, 1912, and allowed by the Local Government Board on the 16th May, 1912.

Bye-Laws with respect to New Buildings, &c., were carefully considered at great length by your Council and ultimately adopted, and at the end of the year the sanction of the Local Government Board was being awaited.

Schools.

The following Schools were closed on the certificate of the School Medical Officer.

School.	Disease.	Date of closure.	
		From.	To.
Yalding, St. Margaret's	Measles	Jan. 4th.	Jan. 25th.
Hunton	Measles and Chicken Pox	Feb. 3rd.	Feb. 22nd.
Marden Council	Scarlet Fever	June 24th.	July 12th.
East Farleigh Council	Measles	„ 25th.	„ 19th.
Staplehurst.....	Measles	„ 30th.	„ 26th.
Yalding	Scarlet Fever	Nov. 14th.	Nov. 22nd.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

The following is a table of the number of persons engaged in the Milk business in the various parishes :—

Parishes.	Pur-veyors.	Dairy-men.	Cow-keepers.	Cow-keepers and Pur-veyors.	Totals.
Barming	—	—	1	—	1
Bearsted	—	1	1	—	2
Boughton Monchelsea	1	—	—	1	2
East Farleigh.....	1	1	3	—	5
West Farleigh	—	—	1	—	1
Hunton	—	—	1	—	1
Linton	—	—	2	—	2
Loose	—	—	3	2	5
Marden	—	3	4	—	7
Nettlestead.....	—	1	1	—	2
Otham	—	—	—	—	—
Staplehurst	—	3	4	—	7
Teston	—	—	1	—	1
Yalding	—	3	—	—	3
Totals	2	12	22	3	39

The condition of the premises on the whole is satisfactory, no serious defects being found. One dairyman only has been registered during the year making the total 39.

Under the Tuberculosis Order of 1913, which came into force on May 1st, 1913, four milch cows were notified as suffering or suspected to be suffering from tuberculosis with emaciation.

On examination by a Veterinary Surgeon two were found to be tuberculous with emaciation and two were not—one being fairly healthy but thin and one had Pneumonia and Pleurisy.

Only two milch cows were on each of the premises when the tuberculosis existed, but 80 milch cows and one heifer were examined by a Veterinary Surgeon.

The positive cases occurred in the parishes of Linton and Barming, the suspected only in Otham and Teston.

The Slaughter Houses in the District are not under supervision and no Bye-laws are in force.

Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

The following Table shows the number of houses inspected and the distribution among the various parishes in the District under this Act since it came into force :—

No. of Houses Inspected.							
Parishes.	1911.		1912.		1913.		Totals.
	With Defects.	Without Defects.	With Defects.	Without Defects.	With Defects.	Without Defects.	
Barming	4	...	10	...	...	...	14
Bearsted	5	4	3	...	...	..	12
Boughton Monch. ...	...	...	14	...	6	4	24
Farleigh, E.	6	...	1	...	29	...	36
Farleigh, W. ....	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
Hunton	1	..	11	...	...	...	12
Linton.....	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Loose	19	2	...	...	..	...	21
Marden	15	...	8	...	15	...	38
Nettlestead .....	...	...	5	..	1	...	6
Otham.....	2	...	...	...	2	...	4
Staplehurst .....	...	...	2	1	1	...	4
Teston.....	...	...	...	...	4	...	4
Yalding	8	...	3	...	2	...	13
	60	6	59	1	62	4	192
Totals	66		60		66		

In 62 of the 66 houses inspected in 1913, defects of some kind were found, the remaining four being in a good state of repair. By the end of the year the works asked for in 26 had been completed to the satisfaction of your official designated to carry out the work, the remainder being in hand.

The following is a statement of work carried out under the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909, as required by Article V. of the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 :—

1. Number of dwelling-houses inspected under and for the purpose of Section 17 of the Act of 1909 66
2. Number of dwelling-houses which on inspection were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 0

3. Number of representations made to the local authority with a view to the making of closing orders	0
4. Number of Closing Orders made	0
5. Number of dwelling-houses the defects of which were remedied without the making of Closing Orders	26
6. Number of dwelling-houses which after the making of Closing Orders were put in a fit state for human habitation	0
7. Number of dwelling-houses dealt with under Section 15 of the Act	14
8. Number of dwelling-houses dealt with under the Public Health Acts	11
9. Number of dwelling-houses dealt with by simple requests or informal notice	1
10. Number of dwelling houses not requiring remedy ...	4

A list of the defects is given below:—

Defective drainage structurally in	40	houses
„ „ ventilation in	17	„
„ cesspools in	2	„
„ closets in... ..	39	„
Deficiency of light in	11	„
Defective ventilation of living rooms in ...	6	„
„ „ bedrooms in	4	„
Dampness of living rooms in	18	„
„ bedrooms in	17	„
„ sculleries in	11	„
Absence of damp course in	40	„
Personally dirty households in	7	„
Defective Walls or weatherboards in.....	7	„
„ roof in	13	„
„ chimneys in	10	„
„ gutter in	17	„
„ rain water disposal in	3	„
„ walls of living rooms in	19	„
„ ceilings of „ „ in	24	„
„ floors of „ „ in	16	„
„ walls of bedrooms in ..	30	„
„ ceiling of „ „ in	9	„
„ floors of „ „ in	16	„
„ staircase in	20	„
Absence of sink in	14	„
Defective water supplies in	10	„
„ yard paving in	6	„
„ „ drainage in	2	„
„ or absence of refuse disposal in	9	„

As in my last year's report, overcrowding was not noted, but in several instances the accommodation is really too small for the health of the occupiers.

I have no facts at present to bring forward to show that additional cottages are required.

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

The following Table shows the distribution of the Factories, Workshops and Workplaces throughout the parishes of the District, and classifies them with regard to their being connected with the production of food or clothing:—

Parishes.	Factories.					Workshops and Work-places.					Totals.
	Bakehouses.	Other Trades connected with Foods or Drinks.	Laundries.	Other Trades connected with Clothing.	Various.	Bakehouses.	Other Trades connected with Foods or Drinks.	Laundries.	Other Trades connected with Clothing.	Various.	
Barming, E. & W.	3	3
Bearsted	2	1	...	...	3	9	15
Boughton Monchelsea	1	.	...	...	2	4	7
Farleigh, E.....	1	5	6
,, W.	3	3
Hunton.....	2	2
Linton	5	5
Loose.....	4	...	...	...	1	4	9
Marden	5	...	...	4	17	26
Nettlestead	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	3	6
Otham	2	2
Staplehurst	1	...	...	...	5	...	...	2	10	18
Teston	1	...	...	...	...	1	2
Yalding.....	...	1	...	...	1	1	1	...	4	16	24
	...	3	...	...	10	13	1	...	17	84	
Totals	13					115					128

No difficulty has been encountered in carrying out the provisions of this Act; informal notice has in all cases been sufficient to effect any necessary improvement or alteration.

There are no **Common Lodging Houses** or **Cellar Dwellings** in the District.

Mr. Busbridge's report of the sanitary work carried out by him during the year, the statistical tables required by the Local Government Board, and the Table provided by the Secretary of State for recording action taken under the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, are appended.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES SCOTT TEW.

June, 1914.

Table 1.—Vital Statistics of whole District during 1913 and previous years.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.‡		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Un- corrected Number.	Nett.		Number. *	Rate.	Of Non- residents regis- tered in the District. †	Of Resi- dents not regis- tered in the District. †	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number. †	Rate.					Number. *	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number. *	Rate.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.
1908	15330	—	405	26·4	300	19·5	58	—	39	96	242	15·7
1909	15297	—	374	24·4	246	16·0	46	1	25	66	201	13·1
1910	15265	—	329	21·5	227	14·8	43	1	25	75	185	12·1
1911	16398	359	354	21·5	275	16·7	74	10	40	113	211	12·8
1912	16505	334	325	19·7	259	15·7	60	18	35	108	217	13·1
1913	16590	356	354	21·3	272	16·4	66	12	34	96	218	13·1

At census of 1911 :—Total population of all ages, 16,398 ; Number of inhabited houses, 3,724 ; Average number of persons per house, 4·2.
Area of District in acres (land and inland water), 34,996.

Table II.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1913.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases notified.						Total Cases Notified in each Locality (e.g. Parish or Ward) of the District.												Total Cases Removed to Hospital.					
	At Ages†—Years.						Bearsted.	Boughton Monchelsea.	Barming.	East Farleigh.	Hunton.	Linton.	Loose.	Marden.	Nettlestead.	Otham.	Staplehurst.	Teston.		West Farleigh.	Yalding.			
	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5 yrs.	5 and under 15 yrs.	15 and under 25 yrs.	25 and under 45 yrs.																45 and under 65 yrs.	65 and upwards.	
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera (C) Plague (P)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group)	20	—	3	9	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	19
Erysipelas	3	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	66	—	13	49	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	54
Typhus Fever.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Relapsing Fever (R)...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Continued Fever (C)...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever.....	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Menin- gitis.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polio-myelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tubercu- culosis.....	34	—	—	6	6	18	4	—	—	—	1	3	1	6	4	4	1	1	2	—	2	9	—	—
Other forms of	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	8	—	—	4	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Infantile Paralysis.....	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	133	—	17	68	16	25	7	—	2	5	2	13	5	8	12	46	5	2	7	4	3	19	—	73

Isolation Hospital situate at Coxheath, in Parish of Loose, provided by the Maidstone Rural District Council.

Table III.—Causes of and ages at Death during the Year 1913.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District (a).									Total Deaths whether of Residents or Non-Residents in Institutions in the District (b)
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and upwards.	
All causes—										
Certified (c) ...	217	33	15	3	9	14	19	41	83	90
Uncertified ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles.....	3	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	1
Scarlet Fever.....	4	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	5
Whooping-cough	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria and Croup	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza.....	3	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—
Erysipelas	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis).....	13	—	1	—	—	4	6	2	—	6
Tuberculous Meningitis	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	5	1	1	—	2	—	1	—	—	1
Cancer, malignant disease ...	20	—	—	—	—	1	1	9	9	6
Rheumatic Fever	5	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	2	2
Meningitis	3	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Organic Heart Disease	26	1	—	—	—	1	2	7	15	7
Bronchitis	10	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	7	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	10	4	3	—	—	—	—	1	2	3
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	13	6	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Cirrhosis of Liver	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Alcoholism	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Debility and Malformation including Premature Birth	10	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	11	4	—	—	1	—	1	2	3	2
Suicide	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—
Other Defined Diseases	61	3	1	—	—	2	4	11	40	45
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	1
	218	34	15	3	9	14	19	41	83	91

Table IV.—Infant Mortality, 1913. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 3 Months	3 Months and under 6 Months	6 Months and under 9 Months	9 Months and under 12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year.
All causes Certified	7	2	—	4	13	7	5	4	4	33
„ Uncertified	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
{ Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Chicken-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Scarlet Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
{ Diphtheria and Croup	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Tuberculous Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
{ Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
{ Convulsions	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
{ Laryngitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
{ Pneumonia (all forms)	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	4
{ Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	1	5
{ Enteritis.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
{ Gastritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Syphilis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Rickets ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Suffocation, overlying	—	1	—	1	2	—	2	—	—	4
{ Injury at Birth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Atelectasis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Congenital Malformations	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Premature Birth	3	—	—	1	4	1	—	—	—	5
{ Atrophy, Debility & Marasmus	1	1	—	1	3	2	—	—	—	5
{ Other Causes	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Total	8	2	—	4	14	7	5	4	4	34
Nett Births in the year						{ Legitimate 337				
						{ Illegitimate 17				
Nett Deaths in the year of						{ Legitimate Infants 29				
						{ Illegitimate Infants..... 5				

TABLE VI.

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Homework.**1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.**

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Factories..... (Including Factory Laundries).	13	—	—
Workshops..... (Including Workshop Laundries).	101	—	—
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises included in part 3 of this Report).	14	—	—
TOTAL.....	128	—	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

PARTICULARS, (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :*				
Want of Cleanliness	6	6	—	
Want of Ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage of Floors	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Accommo- { Insufficient.....	—	—	—	—
dation. { Unsuitable or Defective ...	—	—	—	—
{ Not Separate for Sexes.....	—	—	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts :—				
Illegal Occupation of Underground Bake- house (s. 101).....	—	—	—	—
Breach of Special Sanitary requirements for Bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	—	—	—	—
(Excluding Offences relating to Out- work which are included in Part 3 of this Report)				
TOTAL	6	6	—	—

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

3. HOME WORK.

Nature of Work.	Outworkers' Lists, Section, 107.										Outwork in un-wholesome premises sec. 108.			Outwork in Infected premises, secs. 109, 110.		
	Lists received from Employers.					Notices served on Occupiers as to Keeping or Sending Lists.			Prosecutions.		Instances.	Notices served.	Prosecutions.	Instances.	Orders made (s. 110).	Prosecutions (secs. 109, 110).
	Sending twice in the Year.		Sending once in the Year.			(8)	(9)	(10)								
	Lists.	Out-workers.		Lists.	Out-workers.											
		Contractors.	Workmen.		Contractors.				Workmen.							
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	
Wearing Apparel—																
(1) Making, &c.....																
(2) Cleaning and Washing																
Household Linen.....																
Lace, Lace Curtains and Nets																
Curtains and Furniture Hangings																
Furniture and Upholstery																
Electro Plate.....																
File Making																
Brass and Brass Articles																
Fur Pulling.....																
Cables and Chains																
Anchors and Grapnels																
Cart Gear																
Locks, Latches and Keys.....																
Umbrellas, &c.																
Artificial Flowers																
Nets, other than Wire Nets																
Tents.....																
Sacks.....																
Racquet and Tennis Balls																
Paper, &c, Boxes, Paper Bags																
Brush Making																
Pea Picking																
Feather Sorting																
Carding, &c., of Buttons, &c.																
Stuffed Toys																
Basket Making.....																
Chocolates and Sweetmeats																
Cosques. Christmas Crackers, Christmas Stockings, &c.																
Textile Weaving																
Total																

4. REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year. (1)	Number (2)
Important classes of work- shops, such as workshop bakehouses, may be enu- merated here	<div>Factories 13</div> <div>Workshops and Workplaces 115</div>
(See Table on page 19).	
Total Number of Workshops on Register.....	128

5. OTHER MATTERS.

Class. (1)	Number. (2)
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133), 1901	—
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. In- spector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Work- shop Acts (s. 5), 1901 }	<div>Notified by H.M. Inspector —</div> <div>Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector... —</div>
Other	—
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :—	
Certificates granted during the year	—
In use at the end of the year	—

J. S. TEW,

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1914.

Maidstone Rural District Council.



SANITARY INSPECTOR'S

ANNUAL REPORT

ENDING

DECEMBER, 1913.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

KING STREET,

MAIDSTONE,

FEBRUARY, 1914.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Maidstone Rural District
Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report on the work carried out in your Sanitary Inspector's Department during the year ending December 31st, 1913.

General Inspection of District.

The general sanitary condition of your District is satisfactory. Some much needed improvements have been carried out by owners of property, but there are yet many improvements needed, which I hope to see executed within the next few years.

The reconstruction of drainage to private property is being executed in a much more satisfactory manner than in years past, which is mainly due to your Amended Regulations regarding house drainage, which, although by no means stringent, are the means of preventing inferior work, owing to the fact that property owners when redraining their houses, for the most part, instruct their builders to present plans and particulars of such proposed drainage to your Council for approval before commencing the work, and then inspections are made by your officials whilst such work is in progress, and who usually test the drains at completion; this insuring, at any rate, a good sound drain when first laid. By referring to Table No. 1 you will see that 42 plans for the redrainage of old and the drainage of new property in your district have been presented to and passed by your Council during the year.

These 42 refer to 53 new houses and 40 old houses, the new houses being in the following parishes:—1 Barming, 2 East Farleigh, 28 Loose, 7 Marden, 1 Nettlestead, 4 Staplehurst, 10 Yalding. From the foregoing you will see that building operations are increasing to a considerable extent in your district, especially in Loose, Marden and Yalding. For the most part the new houses in Loose are situated on or adjoining either the Main Road north of the Post Office or Boughton Lane and are of the villa type built in pairs and the drainage carried to cesspools. At Marden four of the seven are cottages built by the landowners for their work people. Of the 10 at Yalding seven are cottages, four of which were built by the owners of the new soap factory for their work people and three others by landowners for their workpeople. In East Farleigh, Nettlestead and Staplehurst the figures include one cottage each. Thus you see the building of cottages is making very slow progress, although many new ones are required in several of your parishes to take the place of the very old ones which are almost unfit for habitation.

I am pleased to be able to report that a set of Building Bye Laws drawn up on the lines of the L.G.B. Model Bye Laws for Rural Districts have been passed by your Council and are now in the hands of the Local Government Board for their final approval and sanction, and I trust that within the course of the next few months they will be in force in your District, and that they will give satisfaction to all concerned.

Turning to the question of Sewage Disposal, I am sorry to have again to report that no improvements under this heading have been carried out by your Council during the past year. The Local Government Board, following an inspection by their Dr. Farrer, of Bearsted, Loose and Staplehurst regarding this matter, have written your Council more than once asking what steps you are taking regarding the much needed improvement of the Sewage Disposal at these three parishes. These parishes, as I stated last year, should be given your immediate and careful consideration, more especially the two last mentioned.

By referring to Table No. 1 you will see that 19 complaints of alleged nuisances have been received, all of which have had careful

investigation. 37 Preliminary and four Statutory Notices have been served and you have been obliged to issue two summons, one in connection with the nuisance arising from Brook Pond, Loose, which case was heard before the Bearsted Bench of Magistrates in November last, but was adjourned till February. The case, as you will remember, was not brought against the defendant until after very careful consideration had been given it by your Council. The other case was in connection with occupying a new house before a Water Certificate had been granted by your Council, and I deal with it under the heading of Water Supplies.

The number of existing houses inspected during the past year was 155, which is 26 less than last year ; these figures do not include inspections under the Housing and Town Planning Act. The reason for the decrease is mainly owing to the fact that so many subsequent visits of both houses and drains have to be made before your Inspectors can get the work of remedying the defects found therein completed, that it is impossible to make the number of primary inspections that they would like, but it is practically impossible to get the work proceeded with quicker unless more stringent measures than your Council wish us now to adopt are resorted to. We certainly get the work done, but it takes a long time and many visits to accomplish this result. Then again there are at least five weeks during the hop-picking season when, in accordance to your instructions, your Inspectors give their whole attention to the housing, etc., of the hop-pickers.

Water Supplies.

Under the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878, your Council have granted 32 Water Certificates in connection with new houses. Table 4 gives the number granted in each parish, and it will be noticed that Loose again this year is head of the list with 16, which brings the total of houses built and occupied in this parish during the last five years up to 47 being eight more than in Staplehurst during the same period ; all the other parishes are very much below these figures. It was under this Act that you considered it necessary to summons the owner of a new house for occupying it without either applying for or obtaining a certificate that there was a wholesome and adequate supply of water attached to his house. The case was tried by the Bearsted Bench of

Magistrates, and he was convicted. I am of opinion that this case has had the result you wished for, namely, impressing upon owners of new houses in your district that they must obtain this certificate before occupying or allowing them to be occupied, for it is most essential from a health point of view that in connection with every new house there should be a wholesome supply of water; this can only be insured in those parts of your district in which there is no public supply, by your Inspectors obtaining a sample of the proposed supply and forwarding it to your Medical Officer of Health for his analysis and report thereon, before it is used by the occupants of the house. In more than one instance the sample thus taken has proved the water unfit for drinking purposes, and the owner of the house has been shewn by your Inspector or Medical Officer of Health the best and cheapest method of obtaining a wholesome supply.

Existing water supplies have been given a good deal of attention during the past year, as reference to Table No. 1 shews, and in several cases where the sample taken and analysed proved it unsatisfactory, the improvements suggested by your Medical Officer of Health in his report of last year being carried out either in part or in whole have proved so beneficial that the water after a reasonable time had been allowed to elapse between the necessary work being carried out and a second sample taken and analysed, showed the water to be satisfactory.

I am pleased to be able to report that about 1 mile 660 yards of new water main has been laid by the Mid Kent Water Co., from Mile Bush to Wanshurst Green, Marden, and nearly one mile from the Quarter towards Knoxbridge, Staplehurst, giving easy facilities to the owners of property along these routes to obtain good water in place of the unsatisfactory water from wells as in the past, and there are yet several parts of your district where this much needed improvement is required.

Infectious Disease.

There have been 133 cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year, 42 of Tuberculosis and 91 of other diseases. Table No. 5 shows under what heads these 91 cases were made up and that the total is two less than last year. In connection with a rather troublesome outbreak of Scarlet Fever at Marden and Yalding, the County Council Schools were closed for a time and thoroughly disinfected by your Inspectors.

Isolation Hospital.

There has been a slight alteration to your staff at your Isolation Hospital at Loose, namely, Miss Robinson has been appointed as Nurse and Miss Jacks as Probationer. This addition was thought advisable by your Council in order that when cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria were under treatment at the same time the existing staff was insufficient, and a temporary nurse had often to be engaged. During the past year 73 cases have been treated at your hospital, 54 of which were Scarlet Fever patients, and I am sorry to have to report that five of these cases died. The first was a little boy aged five years from Marden, admitted to the hospital on May 5th, very seriously ill, and died on May 16th. The second was a little girl nine years of age, admitted from Marden on June 9th, and died on June 13th. The third was a little girl aged 10 from Marden, admitted on June 20th, and died on June 24th. The fourth was a baby of 1½ years, admitted from Marden on August 23rd, and died on August 26th. This child had been seriously ill for some time before being admitted to the hospital in a critical condition. The fifth was a boy aged 10 years, admitted from Hunton on November 4th, and died on November 29th.

Many parents object to send their children to the hospital at the commencement of the illness, thinking they can nurse them equally well at home, but when the child becomes very seriously ill they are only too anxious for it to go and then it is often too late, and the child dies in spite of the very great care and attention always given by your doctor and nursing staff at the hospital.

Dairies and Cowsheds and Milkshops Act, 1885-6.

The usual inspections have been made under this Order, but no serious defects have been found. There has been only one shed and dairy registered during the year which brings the total on the register up to 39.

Factory and Workshops Act.

The Factory and Workshops in your District have been visited by your inspectors, but there is nothing of importance to report regarding them.

Diseases of Animals Act.

A new order in conjunction with this Act, called the Tuberculosis Order of 1913, has been issued by the Local Government Board, making it compulsory, to notify all cows affected or suspected to be affected with Tuberculosis, and for your Sanitary Inspectors on receipt of such notification to visit the premises and report to your Council on the condition of same. This Order applies to unregistered as well as registered cowsheds. During the past year only four such notifications were received, one of which was on registered and three on unregistered premises.

Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.

Your Inspector under this Act (Mr. Sedgwick) has given a great deal of time and attention to this subject during the past year. Table 3 shows that sixty-six houses have been inspected by him, which is six more than last year, but in connection with the 66 houses he has made 375 visits. The reason why so many visits are made, is owing to the fact that, in the majority of cases, the work stated in the notice as required by your Council, is proceeded with so very slowly, and in many instances your inspectors make two or even three visits before the work is commenced and then many more before the work is completed in accordance with your requirements, and to his satisfaction, and a glance at his report book will show that month after month he has to report on the same property, "work in hand," and your Council are of opinion that if only sufficient time is given, work, which they are compelled under this Act to require the owners to carry out to their property, is done satisfactorily, and that this course is better than taking more stringent measures to push the work along. But you will understand that this policy takes up the time of your inspector quite as much as if he dealt with a greater number of houses per year, and the work in connection with each was executed more promptly, thus saving him many blank and fruitless visits.

No notices under Section 17 have been served, one reason for this being the almost impossible procedure of getting tenants to leave a cottage which is practically unfit for human habitation, owing to the fact that they have no other cottage in the vicinity to go to, and as is usually the case, the tenant's means of livelihood is near

the cottage in which he lives, your Council consider it unreasonable to expect him to give up certain employment because he cannot get a cottage to live in within a reasonable distance of his employment; therefore, if the cottage can be made reasonably fit for habitation, and the owner is willing to carry out such work so as to achieve this object, they refrain from serving a closing order. This to my mind proves a weak spot in the Act, because in a rural district of this description, the cottages are tenanted chiefly by agricultural labourers, and it cannot be expected that the Councils will close houses, except in the very worst cases and where there is no possible means by which the owner can make it habitable, at a reasonable cost, knowing that the tenant cannot possibly obtain another house in the vicinity, or, in some cases, within some miles of his employment, which would not only entail his giving up his present employment, but the person for whom he works losing his workman, and being unable to replace him because there is no house in which he can live. The population of a purely agricultural parish increases very little, but if new cottages are not from time to time erected to accommodate this small increase, there must of necessity be no accommodation for the new comer, or the tenant whose cottage is so old and dilapidated as to be unfit for him to live in.

Hop-Picking.

I am glad to be able to report favourably on the hop-picking in your District this year which commenced during the last week in August and continued for about a month.

The weather was not all that could be desired, there being many wet days and nights, but in spite of this the general health of the pickers was good.

I heard of a few cases of Diarrhœa, but no serious outbreak occurred, the Diarrhœa Mixture was as usual supplied to all hop-growers for distribution to such pickers as required it.

Seven cases of Infectious Disease amongst the pickers were notified, viz. :—5 cases of Scarlet Fever and 2 of Diphtheria, all of which were treated at your Isolation Hospital, Loose. These patients

were children between the age of 5 and 10 years and one man aged 23 years, all of whom recovered and went back to their respective homes.

There were no cases of Measles admitted to your Hospital this season, but on the advice of your Medical Officer of Health two of the old wooden huts were prepared for the reception of any such cases.

With regard to the general inspection of housing and food supply, I was ably assisted by your Assistant Inspector (Mr. Sedgwick) who for some ten days or so before the pickers arrived visited the various encampments to see that the huts, &c, were fit for occupation. By this means we were able to make the necessary revisits when the encampments were occupied, which is most essential if your Bye-Laws are to be carried out.

Of course it must be borne in mind that while Mr. Sedgwick and I were thus engaged each day for nearly five weeks in this work, the inspections under the Housing and Town Planning Act, also the general sanitary work in your District, had in a very great measure to be left.

I am pleased to say that several of the growers have put up new and more sanitary huts, in some instances to take the place of the old insanitary structures, but we found that the question of adequate ventilation had in some of these cases not been given proper attention and the notice of the growers had, in several cases, to be called to this. There were many cases of overcrowding brought to our notice, and we at once called the growers attention to it. I am perfectly aware that it is rather a difficult matter to prevent this, but I think if the growers were to be a little more strict at the commencement of the season they would be saved a good deal of trouble on this score afterwards. The cubic space or floor space for each person is plainly set forth in your Bye-laws, a copy of which are sent to him each year, that he should have no difficulty in allotting the required number of persons to occupy each hut or tent at the beginning of the season, and then if overcrowding of any hut occurs afterwards, should turn out at

once those who have gone into the hut and caused the overcrowding. It is most necessary from a health point of view that there should not be this overcrowding.

We found several encampments where the cooking arrangements were either entirely absent or very inadequate. This is a matter which I must ask the growers to carefully consider, for it is important. I am fully aware that many growers say that the pickers prefer to cook their food in the open; I quite agree that they do in fine weather, but on wet days, several of which were experienced this year, they want and like a covered cook house; this need not be elaborate or expensive to erect.

There was a decided improvement in the privy accommodation this year, several growers had erected adequate but not expensive closets for both male and female, and what is more had deputed a man to keep them and the adjoining ground clean and we found where this was done the pickers invariably used them. It is in cases where privies of very primitive structure are put up and not cleansed from the time the pickers arrive at the encampment till they go away, that after the first few days owing to the foul state these privies also the adjoining ground get in, that the pickers will not use them and I might say cannot be expected to, and it is on this account that your officials receive complaints of the insanitary state of the fields and roads adjoining the encampments. At present your Bye-laws make no mention of privy accommodation for the pickers, so that your Inspectors can only suggest to the growers to provide them.

The water supply was certainly more satisfactory, this year and I hope for a still further improvement next season.

The food was satisfactory, no cases of inferior fish or meat being brought to our notice although we were constantly inspecting the shops, stalls, etc. Dr. Farrer, the Inspector of the Local Government Board, again visited your district this season and with me inspected several encampments and appeared more favourably impressed with the general conditions and in particular the housing than on his last visits two years ago. He spoke of the importance of adequate cook-houses also the provision of proper privies.

From Table No. 2 you will see the number of houses, etc., inspected during the season which compares very favourably with the figures of last year.

Before concluding may I take this opportunity of thanking Dr. Tew for his kindness and willingness to assist both Mr. Sedgwick and me, whenever his help has been required during the past year.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOS. A. BUSBRIDGE, A.R. San. I.

Summary of General Work Done.

TABLE No. 1.

Number of Written Complaints received and investigated...	19
„ Houses inspected	155
„ Revisits made to above Houses	30
„ Drains inspected	419
„ Revisits made regarding above Drains	105
„ Offensive Accumulations inspected and dealt with	—
„ Inspections made to Knackers' Yards	2
„ „ „ regarding Animals kept so as to be a nuisance	6
„ Inspections <i>re</i> existing Water Supply	42
„ House Vans inspected	2
„ Inspections <i>re</i> Licence for Entertainment	6
„ Water Certificates granted	32
„ Preliminary Notices served	37
„ Statutory „ „	4
„ Notices served to clean out Cesspools	—
„ Summons served	2
„ Workshops, &c., inspected	128
„ Notices served regarding Workshops	—
„ Cowsheds registered during year	1
„ „ now on Register	39
„ Drainage Plans passed	42

The Number of Inspections made during the **Hop-Picking Season** were as follows :—

TABLE No. 2.

Number of Visits made	165
„ Revisits	144
„ Houses inspected	3571
„ Tents „	485
„ House Vans inspected	81
„ Fish and Meat Stalls and Carts inspected	172
„ Legal proceedings	—
„ Letters sent <i>re</i> Infringement of Bye-laws	50

Housing and Town Planning Act, &c., 1909.

TABLE No. 3.

	1912.	1913.
Number of Houses inspected	60	66
„ Visits to above	221	375
Notices served under P.H.A. (1875)	35	27
„ „ H.T.P. Act, 1909 (Sec. 15) ...	21	35
„ „ „ „ (Sec. 17)	3	—
„ Closing Orders		
Houses that required nothing to be done	1	4

Table Showing Water Certificates granted.

TABLE No. 4.

	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.
Barming	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Bearsted	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Boughton	—	—	1	—	—	2	—
Farleigh, East ...	2	—	—	1	—	—	1
Farleigh, West ...	—	—	—	—	—	3	1
Hunton	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Linton	—	—	—	—	2	3	—
Loose	—	—	5	7	9	10	16
Marden	10	2	3	4	7	—	3
Nettlestead	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Otham	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Staplehurst	—	—	6	16	7	4	6
Teston	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yalding	—	—	—	1	1	9	4
	17	2	17	29	26	37	32

Number of Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the past six years, not including Phthisis :—

TABLE No. 5.

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric.	Erysipelas.	Puerperal.	Acute Poliomye- litis.	
1907	45	17	2	14	—	—	78
1908	66	19	3	10	2	—	100
1909	22	15	2	6	—	—	45
1910	38	6	1	9	4	—	58
1911	45	7	—	8	—	—	60
1912	38	44	3	6	1	1	93
1913	66	20	—	3	1	*1	91

*Suspicious case only.

Cases of Infectious Disease treated at Hospital, and Number of **Deaths** at Hospital :—

TABLE No. 6.

	Scarlet Fever.	Deaths.	Diph- theria.	Deaths.	Typhoid.	Deaths.	Total Deaths.	Total Treated.
1907	30	1	16	—	—	—	1	46
1908	50	—	11	1	—	—	1	61
1909	19	—	11	—	—	—	—	30
1910	25	1	5	—	—	—	1	30
1911	41	—	5	—	—	—	—	46
1912	29	—	41	4	1	1	5	71
1913	54	5	19	—	—	—	5	73